

# Happiness Pony

happinesspony.com

Awkward Disclosures

September 2011



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**"Mothers News"**  
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**508:**

a show about Worcester  
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.MessyKnits.

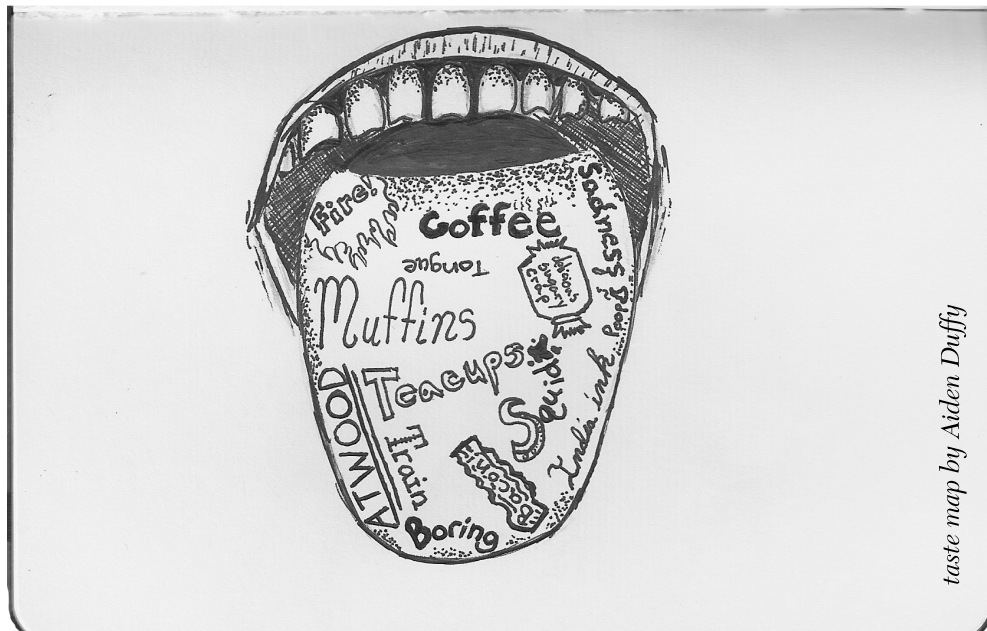
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## Taste Bud Fraud?

As a youth, you may have learned that the tongue senses sweet tastes at the tip, salty and sour tastes at the sides, and bitter tastes towards the back. This lie is based on Harvard psychologist Edwin Garrigues Boring's confused 1942 interpretation of a 1901 paper by David P. Hänig. In 1974, Virginia Collings revisited the topic and found that every part of the tongue can taste every taste. See: Human Taste Response as a Function of Locus of Stimulation on the Tongue and Soft Palate. *Perception & Psychophysics*, 16: 169–174.

Note that before teaching at Harvard, Boring was a professor at Clark University, but left after Wallace Walter Atwood was appointed Clark president; Atwood accused Boring of being a Bolshevik and generally did not think psychological research valuable.

Note also that in recent decades Western scientists accept a fifth taste to accompany sweet, sour, salty, and bitter: umami, the savory flavor of L-glutamate and 5'-ribonucleotides. This flavor is most noticeable in ripe tomatoes, fish sauce, cheese, soy sauce, and MSG. (*Mike Benedetti*)



## Dream Agenda: September

Response to PonyCon 2011, a convention that took place in the dreams of the attendees, was tremendous and positive. As a follow-up, we have made a list of things which require discovery through dreams and which, while perhaps too much work for any dreamer in a single month, we can research if we work together. Please send the results of the relevant dreams to [editor@happinesspony.com](mailto:editor@happinesspony.com) for publication.

- \* Which of my masterpieces are destined to remain unfinished?
- \* How can I best cooperate with the cosmic rhythms?
- \* Where did her familiar feeling of worthlessness come from?
- \* Where should I go to bury my treasure?
- \* Where should I go to grow my garden?
- \* What form is the monster under my bed taking this week?

## Underwater Money

Until the 20th century, the people of the Pacific island of Yap used large stone discs called *rai* as money. These were usually used in social transactions such as marriage and ransom. The *rai*, which weighed as much as four tons, were rarely moved. Rather, everyone knew who the owner of a particular *rai* was. The *rai* were cut in Palau, an island 280 miles away, and transported by canoes. One of the *rai* was dropped into the ocean while being transported. It was still recognized as money.



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**Salt for the Unsalted**  
BY BRUCE "SNOW GHOST" RUSSELL

Dear Bruce: Why did you paint your  
fingernails bright white?

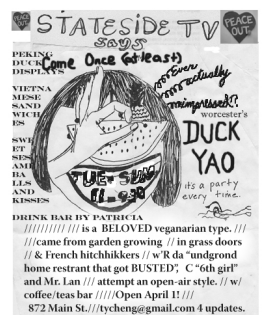
I'm an artist.

Dear Bruce: Toast? We don't have  
any toast.

Even if you don't have physical toast,  
there's still toast in one form or the  
other.

Dear Bruce: Any advice about  
surviving life in Worcester?

If you become the most hateable  
person, stay in there long enough and  
you'll be the most loveable person.  
That's from experience.



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### HAPPINESS PONY Income Statement August 2011

| Revenue                |         |
|------------------------|---------|
| Donations from editors | \$83.29 |
| Ad sales               | \$0.00  |
| Other donations        | \$0.00  |

| Expenses    |         |
|-------------|---------|
| 500 copies  | \$82.18 |
| Test copies | \$1.11  |

| Net Income |        |
|------------|--------|
|            | \$0.00 |

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VIRGO (8/23-9/22): I had a dream last night, Virgo. You were in it. You wouldn't stop barking grammatical rules to me in broken Portuguese. Then you morphed into a pterodactyl and swooped me off my feet. I guess with old age comes lowered expectations.



LIBRA (9/23-10/22): Life is a lot like the New Jersey Turnpike, Libra. It can be picturesque, sublime, devastating, rewarding, cruel, beautiful. But in spite of it all, it is the best in us that picks ourselves up each morning, pulls back a shot of JD and finishes that algebraic equation begun last night. Maybe you should steer clear of spark plugs and vaseline this month.



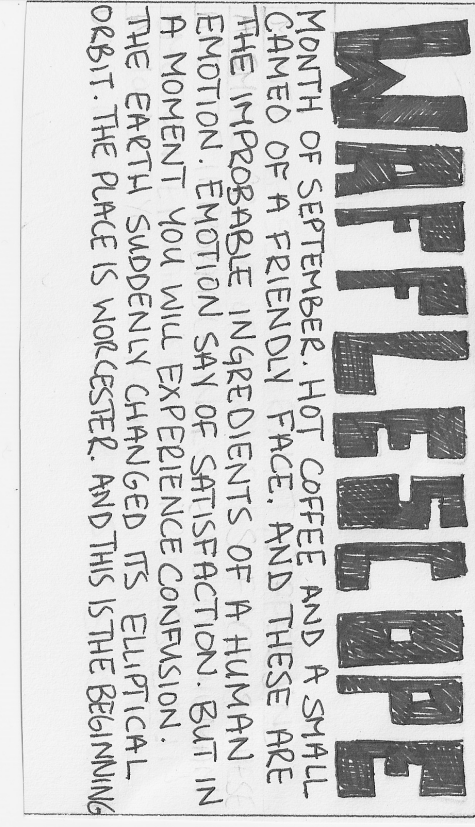
SCORPIO (10/23-11/21): I once saw an osprey catch a salmon. Or was it Coco Crisp catching a pop fly . . . . Sometimes mindfulness promotes the growth of integrative fibers in the brain bringing us closer to enlightenment. Sometimes, Scorpio, it really is worthwhile to cut the crap and chase that damn squirrel.



SAGITTARIUS (11/22-12/21): When was the last time you poured yourself a goblet of Sambuca and sang along with "The Star Spangled Banner"? I think it's time to kick back and get happy drunk, Sag. But first turn off all communication devices: marriage proposals to exes are not cool.



CAPRICORN (12/22-1/19): A priest, a rabbi, and a minister walk into a bar this week, Capricorn. They each order a shot of tequila and begin to cry at one of the worst jokes I've ever heard.



AQUARIUS (1/20-2/18): I've been searching for Waldo since 1997. I checked the laundry, the frozen food section, the bottom of many a shot glass. And then yesterday, I turned the page of my graphic novel Bible and saw Chuck Norris had eaten both Cain & Abel. In one bite. Rethink the lingerie, Aquarius, that man's appetite is insatiable.

MERMAN ON EXHIBITION AT ALLIGATOR FARM,  
HOT SPRINGS NATIONAL PARK, ARK.



A member of the family of Nereids that inhabited the China Sea many centuries ago. This specimen having been captured in the Gulf of Tonquin, a tributary of the China Sea, off the coast of Quinhoy, about five hundred miles from Hong Kong. It belongs to the species of Herbivorous Cetacea, one of the rarest inhabitants of the Sea. Herbivorous Cetacea, occasionally wandered into the more Northern Seas, and invariably caused great excitement among the people of the coast. In 1891, a specimen of this species was captured near Canton, they were quite frequently seen by Arab and Greek seamen years ago, but they are now almost an extinct type of animal life. This specimen was purchased from the National Museum of China, through the firm of Fook Woh & Co., Importers, San Francisco, Calif., and it is said there are but few others, they being in the large museums of Europe.

PISCES (2/19-3/20): I bumped into an old woman yesterday and mistook her for a trout stream. Sometimes things are not as they seem, Pisces, so pick up your feet and stop mumbling.

ARIES (3/21-4/19): A bizarre chain of existential mishaps will lead you to listen to "My Heart Will Go On" four times this week, causing you to rethink your lack of health insurance.

TAURUS (4/20-5/20): Sometimes it is difficult to distinguish love from indigestion, Taurus, causing you to pursue questionable objects in your local market. As someone who is not comfortable with blood avoid aisle 3 next week.

GEMINI (5/21-6/20): Gemini, stop shattering glasses in search of your reflection. Your quest for luck is proving your inability to fully appreciate gravity and china (the country). The presence of Mercury in your sign can only mean one thing: stop eating so much freaking tuna fish.

CANCER (6/21-7/22): Sometimes you think you're being charming, Cancer, but you're really just being a jerk. I would reconsider that dinner date you set up for Saturday night.

LEO (7/23-8/22): Your inability to stop crying during Tuesday's touch football game was more than a karmic hiccup, Leo. My advice is to stop trying to prove to your father that you are athletic and just buy that tutu.

